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STEEL PLANTS REPORT 1950 GAINS; PLEDGE NEW RECORDS FOR 1951

/In January - February 1951, reports from USSR steel plants stressed successes achieved in 1950, as well as plans and records already made or pledged for 1951. Plants continued to meet orders for the new hydroelectric power and irrigation projects under construction.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

The VTsSPS (Vsesoyuznyy Tsentral'nyy Sovet Professional'nykh Soyuzov, All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions) and the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy have announced the following results of the fourth-quarter competition among ferrous metallurgy enterprises:

Transferable red banners of the Council of Ministers USSR and first prizes were again awarded to the blast-furnace, coke, and wire and strip shops of the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine imeni Stalin; open-hearth shop No 1 of the "Serp i molot" Plant in Moscow; "Magnitnaya Gora" Mine of the Magnitogorsk Combine; and Heat and Power Plant of the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine.

Transferable red banners of the Council of Ministers USSR and first prizes were awarded to the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine; open-hearth shop No 2 of the Magnitogorsk Combine; section-rolling shop of the "Serp i molot" Plant; and pipe-rolling shop of the Zhdanov Plant imeni Kuybyshev.

Transferable red banners of the VTsSPS and of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy and first prizes were again awarded to the Steel-Rolling and Wire and Cable Plant imeni Molotov; pile driver and railroad shops of the "Serp i molot" Plant; and railroad shop of the Novo-Tul'skiy Metallurgical Plant.

Transferable red banners of the VTsSPS and Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy and first prizes were awarded to the Kiev Machine Plant and Voronezh Mine Administration.(1)

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The VTsSPS has awarded the Vyartsil'ya Metallurgical Plant, Karelo-Finnish SSR, second all-Union prize of 40,000 rubles in the fourth-quarter 1950 competition among metallurgical enterprises. Steelworkers at the plant are completing melts in 6-7 hours as compared with the norm of 9 hours. The plant fulfilled the fourth-quarter plan 185 percent.(2)

Enterprises of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy in Leningrad fulfilled the 1950 gross-production plan 104 percent. Considerable quantities of steel and rolled metal were produced above the 1950 plan. Steel production in 1950 was 120 percent of the 1949 production, and of rolled metal, 122 percent.(3)

Moscow enterprises of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy fulfilled the 1950 gross-production plan 102 percent. Considerable quantities of rolled ferrous metals were produced above plan. Steel production in 1950 was 107 percent of 1949 and rolled metal output was 112 percent of 1949.(4)

All shops of the Moscow "Serp i molot" Plant have exceeded the January plan.(5) In January, the average production of steel per square meter of hearth in open-hearth shop No 1 of the "Serp i molot" Plant was 5.5 tons, as compared with the progressive norm of 5.1 tons.(4) The shop's steelworkers have pledged in 1951 to increase the recovery of steel per square meter of hearth to 8.1 tons and to increase the length of the furnace run between repairs to 265 melts. The plant's "750" mill has achieved a productivity of 610 ingots rolled per 8 hours, the highest productivity yet achieved on this type of mill. In 1951, the mill operators have pledged to increase the mill's hourly productivity by 0.6 ton.(6)

The "Serp i molot" Plant has produced a consignment of wire for the telephone lines of the Volga-Don navigation canal. The casting, bimetal, and section-rolling shops fulfilled the order ahead of schedule.(7)

Workers at the Moscow Pipe Plant have answered the Magnitogorsk appeal for better utilization of equipment in 1951 with a pledge from the pipe-rolling shop to achieve a productivity per actual work hour of 1,000 meters on the AShT-60 mill and 1,350 meters on the M-1½ mill. In 1950, productivity of these two mills was 910 and 1,265 meters respectively. The shop has also pledged to produce above plan 600,000 meters of electric-welded pipe and to decrease metal consumption by 10 percent.(8)

Workers in the wire-drawing shop of the Moscow "Proletarskiy trud" Plant of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy have made great strides in 1950 by adopting the most advanced production methods available in the industry. Leading draw-bench operators have had the following results: on the GSVA 4/550 bench, in drawing iron-steel wire, a Stakhanovite now is able to produce 7 tons of wire per shift, as compared with the 1950 progressive norm of 4.3 tons; on the GSVA 2/600 bench, the production is now 7.5 tons per shift as compared with the progressive norm of 4 tons; on the TV 6/530 bench, production is now 3 tons per shift as compared with the progressive norm of 2.3 tons; and on the GSVA 4/550 bench, 8 tons per shift, 2½ times the norm. The drawers have pledged to achieve the following production in 1951: GSVA 2/600 bench - 7.5 tons per shift GSVA 4/550 bench - 8 tons; TV 6/350 bench - 3.5 tons; and GV 1/600 - 6 tons.(9)

By the beginning of 1950, the "Proletarskiy trud" Plant had doubled its volume of production in comparison with 1946, while using the same amount of equipment. The plant could not have met the augmented plan for 1950 without utilizing internal resources, since the lack of space prevented expansion of plant capacity. Plants doing similar work were contacted through the ministry to provide information on their advanced methods, so that labor productivity and output per unit of equipment might be increased. "Giprotsvetmet" (State Institute for Planning Nonferrous Metallurgy Enterprises), with its large staff of specialists in the organization of metallurgical production, was of inestimable value in this project.

An example of the value of the exchange of leading methods was the use by "Proletarskiy trud" of the experience of the Revda Plant, Sverdlovsk Oblast, in speeding the removal of finished production from the mills. A drawer at the latter plant takes only 6.4 minutes in removing one ton of finished wire from the finishing drum, whereas a drawer at "Proletarskiy trud" used to take 10.2 minutes. The operation now has been speeded by 14 percent. As a result of utilizing the best methods of all plants, the speed of drawing has been almost doubled, and the productivity of the drawing machinery has been increased 1½-2 times. Thus the plant has not only been able to eliminate one of its chief bottlenecks - wire drawing - but also to meet ahead of schedule the 1950 plan for wire output.(10)

In the postwar period, the "Elektrostal'" Plant, Moscow Oblast, considerably exceeded the prewar level for gross-production output. During the 5-year period, the plant has adopted to production more than 200 new types of steel.(11) Steelworkers of the plant's steel-casting shop No 1 have responded to the Magnitogorsk appeal for increased equipment productivity. In this shop, the best results in 1950 were achieved by a brigade operating furnace No 4 which achieved a production of 6.77 tons of high-quality steel per 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electric power, exceeding the new progressive indexes for steel recovery by 0.9 percent. The rest of the shop has pledged in 1951 to exceed the indexes achieved by furnace No 4, to increase the recovery of steel by one percent above the progressive norm, and to increase the furnace durability to 63 melts.(12)

In the South, the Statistics Administration Ukrainian SSR has reported that in 1950, output of pig iron in the republic increased 30 percent, steel 28 percent, rolled metal 22 percent, coke 24 percent, mining of iron ore 35 percent, and manganese ore 27 percent over 1949.(13) Miners of the Krivoy Rog Iron Ore Basin completed the 1950 plan for ore mining on 29 December. In comparison with 1949, mining of ore in the basin has increased 35.5 percent.(14)

The Magnitogorsk appeal is finding wide response among metallurgists in the South. Sheet-rolling mill operators of the Dnepropetrovsk Metallurgical Plant imeni Lenin in 1950 achieved a productivity of 11.34 tons per hot hour on the universal mill as compared with the progressive norm of 11.3 tons. The workers have pledged to exceed this achievement and to increase productivity of the mill to 13 tons.(8) The plant has shipped a large quantity of high-quality pipe to the Volga-Don canal project.(15)

Steelworkers in open-hearth shop No 2 of the Plant imeni Dzerzhinskiy, Dneprodzerzhinsk, have pledged in 1951 to achieve a production of 7.2 tons of steel per square meter of hearth as compared with the 1950 average of 6.76 tons.(8) A leading steelworker at the plant has succeeded in bringing the production to 7.05 tons per square meter as compared with the progressive norm of 5.87 tons.(16) Another of the plant's steelworkers recently completed a melt in the record time of 3 hours 55 minutes and produced 14.29 tons of steel per square meter of hearth, the highest index ever achieved in the Dnepr region.(17)

Section-rolling mill operators of the Dnepropetrovsk Plant imeni Petrovskiy have already completed the February order for angle iron for the builders of the Tsimlyanskiy Hydroelectric Power Center. The Dnepropetrovsk Plant imeni Komintern has shipped thin-sheet iron and rolled section metal to the Volga-Don canal project.(15)

All metallurgical plants in the Donbass have been completely restored. During the postwar Five-Year Plan, the smelting of pig iron and steel has increased. Production of rolled metal in Stalino Oblast alone has increased several times.(18)

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Bessemer steelworkers in the Bessemer shop of the Yenakiyevo Metallurgical Plant, Stalino Oblast, have set a new record. On some days they have achieved a production as high as 120 tons per shift, the highest index yet achieved in the shop in its 52 years of existence.(19) Every day, the Yenakiyevo Plant ships out dozens of carloads of section iron and rails to the Volga-Don canal project.(20) The plant's "300" mill completed 3 days ahead of schedule an order for 610 tons of rolled section iron for the canal project. Rolling mill workers have successfully adopted to production a new profile of armature steel and completed ahead of schedule 120 tons of girders for the construction of the canal. The plant shipped 1,400 tons of various rolled products to the project 2 days ahead of schedule.(21)

Rolling shop No 2 of the Makeyevka Metallurgical Plant imeni Kirov, Stalino Oblast, was scheduled in January to produce 2,000 tons of rolled metal for the canal project. By 9 January, the plant had shipped out the first 12 carloads on this order.(20)

The competition for high-speed melts at the "Azovstal'" Plant has had good results. Formerly, a melt completed in 15 hours was considered high speed, whereas now, almost all melts are being completed in 14-14½ hours. The best workers are completing them in 11-12 hours.(22)

The competition between the Magnitogorsk Combine and the Stalino Metallurgical Plant has been renewed this year. At the beginning of January, foreman of blast furnace No 1 at the latter plant had pledged to achieve a coefficient of 0.90, as compared with the planned 0.93. A worker at blast furnace No 4 had pledged to achieve a coefficient of 0.78, as compared with the planned 0.90. Since the beginning of February, the blast-furnace shop as a whole has achieved a coefficient of 0.92, as compared with the planned 0.98. In 15 days of February, blast furnace No 1 had a coefficient of 0.92 and blast furnace No 4, 0.70.(23)

The Pipe-Rolling Plant imeni Yakubovskiy, Voroshilovgrad Oblast, has completed its first quarter task for production of pipe for the new hydroelectric power projects.(24)

The Lipetsk "Svobodnyy sokol" Metallurgical Plant, Voronezh Oblast, shipped to the Kuybyshev GES project the first consignment of pipe produced by the plant's pipe-rolling shop.(25)

Pipe-welding shops No 1 and 2 of the Taganrog Metallurgical Plant imeni Andreyev, Rostov Oblast, have already produced approximately 200 tons of welded pipe for the Volga-Don canal project. Dozens of tons of sheet steel and seamless rolled pipe have been shipped to the project by the sheet-rolling and pipe-rolling shops.(26)

The "250" mill of the "Krasnyy Sulin" Metallurgical Plant, Rostov Oblast, has shipped hundreds of tons of metal ahead of schedule to the Tsimlyanskiy Hydroelectric Power Center.(27)

At the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine, Chelyabinsk Oblast, the production level planned for the last year of the postwar Five-Year Plan was exceeded in 1950 by 7.5 percent for pig iron, 26.5 percent for steel, and 30 percent for rolled metal.

Among the combine's plans for 1951 is an extensive plan for mechanization and modernization of the mine. This will help to increase ore quality, to facilitate wet magnetic concentration of the sulfide ores, conversion of the sinter plant to production of self-fluxing sinter, and other improvements. A sprinkler

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car will be installed in the coke shop to improve coke quality. Blast furnaces No 3 and 5 will be rebuilt to operate at increased blast-furnace-gas pressure. The pile driver shop will start working over slag dumps to recover metal suitable for resmelting in open-hearth furnaces. "Glavvtormet" (Main Administration of Procurement, Processing, and Sale of Ferrous and Nonferrous Metal Scrap) will be called upon to assist in stepping up shipments of metal scrap.

Workers at the combine's blast furnace No 6 have pledged to achieve a coefficient of 0.78 for capacity utilization of the furnace in 1951, as compared with the planned 0.807. In February, the workers achieved an average coefficient which was 0.007 better than the pledged coefficient. On some days, they achieved a coefficient of 0.727, and are attempting now to maintain these high levels. Blast-furnace operators have been hampered in achieving even greater efficiency of operation by the low quality of the charge materials. The quality of coke produced by the coke and chemical by-products shop (chief, Kolobov) leaves much to be desired. The ore delivered in January by the Magnitogorsk Mine Administration (chief, Kotov; chief engineer, Marinenko) varied greatly in the iron and silica content, making it difficult to maintain uniform operation of the furnace. In February, the percent of reducibility of the sinter produced by the first and second sinter plants was considerably lower than that of the best days of 1950. Confusion in the mine administration and ignorance on the part of its directors have resulted in impairment of the technology of sintering.(28)

Steelworkers of the combine's open-hearth shop No 3, in response to the appeal made by the combine's blast-furnace workers, have pledged in 1951 to exceed on all large furnaces the level of steel production achieved in 1950 by open-hearth furnace No 3, which, during the year, produced 1,000 tons of steel above plan and saved more than one million rubles. The accomplishment of this pledge will mean an increase of from 10-12 percent in the shop's steel production.(29)

The combine's "300" mills No 1 and 3 have just completed an order for high-quality rolled metal for the Tsimlyanskiy Hydroelectric Center. A 25-car train was loaded and shipped out on schedule to the project, despite the complexity in loading the 12-meter rolled products.(30)

Metallurgists in Sverdlovsk Oblast have responded to the appeal of Magnitogorsk workers for better utilization of equipment in 1951. Blast-furnace workers of blast furnace No 3 of the Novo-Tagil'skiy Plant have pledged to achieve a coefficient of 0.80 in 1951, to save 6,000 tons of ore, 1,500 tons of coke, and 3,000 tons of limestone.(26) The blast-furnace shop as a whole has achieved an average coefficient of 0.80 for capacity utilization of the furnaces, which is considerably above the plan.(31)

Rolling-mill operators of the Verkh-Isetskiy Plant pledged to increase the output of rolled products 6 percent in 1951 over 1950 and to decrease consumption of materials, fuel, power, etc., by 3 percent below the plan.(26)

The Alapayevsk Metallurgical Plant has been working on an order for a large consignment of roofing tin for the Volga-Don canal. The sheet-mill workers have completed ahead of schedule hundreds of tons of roofing material for the project.(3)

Leading workers in the blast-furnace shop of the Metallurgical Plant imeni Serov have achieved a coefficient of 0.62 for capacity utilization of the furnace.(32)

A steelworker at the "Uralmashzavod" has achieved a record in durability of electric furnaces. For almost 2 years, his furnace has been operating without repair. The durability of the walls has been increased to 3,000 melts, and of the roof, more than 300 melts. This is a record for electric furnaces in the Urals.(33)

The Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine imeni Stalin, Kemerovo Oblast, has successfully completed the January plan for the entire metallurgical cycle. Blast-furnace operators achieved a coefficient of 0.85 for January, as compared with the mean progressive norm of 0.86, while furnace No 4 achieved a coefficient of 0.83.(34)

According to a report by the Statistics Administration Kazakh SSR on fulfillment of the 1950 plan by industries in the republic, steel production in 1950 was 132 percent of the 1949 production and rolled steel, 136 percent. Production of ferrochrome in 1950 was 114 percent of 1949.(35)

The Aktyubinsk Ferroalloy Plant, Kazakh SSR, has exceeded the January plan for metal production.

Steelworkers of the Kazakh Metallurgical Plant are completing melts in 6 hours 30 minutes, as compared with the norm of 7 hours 20 minutes.(36)

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12. Moscow, Trud, 25 Jan 51
13. Moscow, Izvestiya, 3 Feb 51
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33. Moscow, Krasnaya Zvezda, 11 Jan 51
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